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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (o)
General and complete disarmament: illicit traffic in small arms

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Illicit traffic in small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 T of 4 December 1998,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report on the result of his broad-based consultations on the magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,[1]

Convinced of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches,

Welcoming in this regard the decision on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held

[1] A/54/404.

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at Algiers;[2] the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials;[3] the decision on prevention and combating of illicit trafficking in small arms and related crimes adopted by the Council of Ministers at the nineteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community, held at Maputo;[4] the initiatives taken by States members of the Economic Community of West African States to reach an agreement on a code of conduct for the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons;[5] and the adoption by the European Union of the Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and the other initiatives taken, such as the Joint Action on Small Arms[6] that has been endorsed by several member States not members of the European Union,

Welcoming also the assistance provided by Member States in support of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Mindful of the impact of surplus small arms and light weapons on the illicit trade in these weapons, and welcoming the practical measures taken by Member States to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his reports on small arms,[7]

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface among violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Considering that the United Nations could, through a coordinated approach, collect, share and disseminate information to Member States on useful and successful practices to prevent the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and mindful of the role of the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in this regard,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation and coordination both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations and within the United Nations Secretariat through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in its ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Noting with appreciation the workshops on illicit trafficking in small arms, held at Lomé and Lima, arranged by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively,

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[2] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Dec.137 (XXXV).

[3] See A/53/78, annex.

[4] A/54/488-S/1999/1082, annex.

[5] A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1194.

[6] A/54/374, annex.

[7] A/52/298 and A/54/258.

Conscious of its decision to convene an international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects no later than 2001,[8] and taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on small arms,[9] prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, as well as the views of Member States on the objectives, scope, agenda, dates and venue of such an international conference,[10]

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and to submit to the international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects information on the magnitude and scope of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote regional and subregional initiatives and requests the Secretary-General, within available financial resources, and also States in a position to do so to assist States in taking such initiatives to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in affected regions, and invites the Secretary-General to utilize these initiatives as part of his consultations;

3. *Further encourages* Member States in a position to do so to take appropriate national measures to destroy surplus small arms and light weapons, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on the types and quantities destroyed;

4. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

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[8] Resolution 53/77 E.

[9] A/54/258.

[10] A/54/260.

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26 October 1999

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (o)
General and complete disarmament: illicit traffic in small arms

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Illicit traffic in small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 T of 4 December 1998,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report (A/54/404) on the result of his broad-based consultations on the magnitude and scope of the phenomena of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Convinced of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches,

In this regard, welcoming the Decision on the Proliferation, Circulation and Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (A/54/424) taken by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its 35th Ordinary Session held in

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Algiers, Algeria; the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials; the Decision on Prevention and Combating of Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Related Crimes (A/54/488-S/1999/1088) taken by the Council of Ministers at the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community, held in Maputo, Mozambique; the initiatives by States members of the Economic Community of West African States to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons; and the adoption of the European Union programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the initiatives undertaken such as the Joint Action on Small Arms (A/54/374) that has been endorsed by several non-European Union Member States,

Welcoming further the assistance provided by Member States in support of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Mindful of the impact of surplus small arms and light weapons on the illicit trade in these weapons, *and welcoming* practical measures undertaken by Member States to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons in accordance with the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his reports on Small Arms (A/52/298 of 27 August 1997 and A/54/258 of 19 August 1999),

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Considering that the United Nations could through a coordinated approach collect, share and disseminate information to Member States on useful and successful practices to prevent the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and mindful of the role of the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in this regard,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation and coordination both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, and within the United Nations Secretariat through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in its ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Noting with appreciation the workshops on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms held in Lome, Togo and Lima, Peru, respectively arranged by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Conscious of its decision to convene an international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects no later than 2001, and *taking into consideration* the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on Small Arms (A/54/258), prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, as well as the views of Member States (A/54/260) on the objectives, scope, agenda, dates and venue of such an international conference,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and to submit to the international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, information on the magnitude and scope of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote regional and subregional initiatives and requests the Secretary-General, within available financial resources, and also States in a position to do so, to assist States taking such initiatives to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in affected regions, and *invites* the Secretary-General to use these initiatives as part of his consultations;

3. *Further encourages* Member States, in a position to do so, to take appropriate national measures to destroy surplus small arms and light weapons, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on types and quantities destroyed;

4. *Invites* Member States, in a position to do so, to continue to provide assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 69
Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

South Africa*: draft resolution

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolution 52/44 of 9 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,[1]

Recalling further paragraph 148 of the final document adopted by the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, which, *inter alia*, noted that the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee will continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,[2]

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches, in particular given the prevailing international climate, which is conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

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* South Africa on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45* and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

[2] See A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

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Convinced that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Considering that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;[3]

2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. *Reiterates* the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Ad Hoc Committee and to report through the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29* (A/54/29).

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Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (h)
General and complete disarmament: observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

South Africa*: draft resolution

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 J of 4 December 1998,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should fully contribute to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

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detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objective envisaged in the present resolution;[1]

4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing this information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

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[1] A/54/163 and Add.1.